

VZCZCXRO8384
RR RUEHCD RUEHGA RUEHGD RUEHHA RUEHHO RUEHMC RUEHQU RUEHTM RUEHVC
DE RUEHBU #2095/01 2971808
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 241808Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9544
INFO RUCNMRC/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0683

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 002095

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

G/IWI FOR PENNY RECHKEMMER
G/TIP FOR BARBARA FLECK AND KATIE BRESNAHAN
WHA/BSC FOR JANINA SLATTERY
WHA/PPC FOR SCOTT MILLER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AR](#) [KWMN](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KCRM](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [ELAB](#)

SUBJECT: TIP ACTIVIST TRIMARCO LAUNCHES ANTI-TIP FOUNDATION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 300

11. (U) Summary. Ambassador Wayne delivered the keynote speech at the launch of Susana Trimarco's anti-trafficking in persons (TIP) foundation. In the Ambassador's remarks, he highlighted the need for comprehensive anti-TIP legislation and underscored USG commitment to fight TIP. He also announced an Embassy donation of computers and educational materials to the foundation. The event attracted strong local media coverage, and National Deputy Stella Maris Cordoba as well as provincial officials attended the event. After the event, Trimarco and the Ambassador called on Tucuman Governor Jose Alperovich to underscore the importance of fighting human trafficking. Alperovich congratulated Trimarco and offered continued support.

12. (U) Earlier this year, the Department twice recognized Trimarco for her efforts to combat trafficking: first as an International Woman of Courage and later as a Heroine Acting to end Modern-Day Slavery. Department recognition of Trimarco's fight against TIP has helped raise her profile and call attention to Argentina's human trafficking problem. An extraordinary networker, Trimarco has relied on the media, grassroots organization, the Catholic Church and the National Gendarmerie to develop an ad hoc response to identifying, rescuing, and rehabilitating victims. The establishment of the Maria de los Angeles Foundation is the first step to institutionalizing Trimarco's crusade against human trafficking and will hopefully inject momentum to civil society's efforts to pass meaningful anti-TIP legislation. End Summary.

Foundation Inauguration a Success

13. (U) Ambassador Wayne delivered the keynote speech at the launch of Susana Trimarco's anti-trafficking in persons (TIP) foundation on October 19. The "Maria de los Angeles Foundation" is named after Trimarco's daughter who was kidnapped in 2003 and is believed to have been trafficked into sexual slavery. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Trimarco publicly thanked the Ambassador for his and the USG's continued support of her fight against TIP.

14. (U) Trimarco says that the main objectives of the foundation are to: 1) continue investigations into human trafficking; 2) provide assistance to trafficking victims until they are ready to be reintegrated into their communities or start new lives elsewhere; 3) advocate for stronger government policies to combat human trafficking on behalf of mothers who have lost children to modern-day slavery; and 4) raise awareness of the problem through media outreach and training to judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials. According to Trimarco, the GOA and the provincial government of Tucuman provided financial assistance to help her launch the foundation.

15. (U) In his remarks, the Ambassador congratulated Trimarco on her achievements, highlighted the need for comprehensive anti-TIP legislation, and underscored USG commitment to working with Trimarco and others in the government and civil society to combat human trafficking. The Ambassador also presented Trimarco with a State Department certificate naming her a Heroine Acting to end Modern-Day Slavery and announced an Embassy donation of two computers and educational materials. National Congresswoman Stella Maris Cordoba, who has sponsored comprehensive draft anti-TIP legislation, attended the event, as did a number of officials from the provinces of Tucuman and La Rioja. Representatives from the National Ministry of Justice and the National Anti-Discrimination Institute (INADI) were also present.

Media Views Ambassador's Presence as Sign of USG Support

16. (U) Local television, radio and press in full force covered the event and carried the Ambassador's key-note address as the main feature of their news items. Tucuman's most traditional and biggest-selling newspaper, La Gaceta, for example, carried the news on its front page and two separate stories on the Ambassador's visit inside. Local journalists viewed the Ambassador's presence as a sign of strong international support for Trimarco's cause.

Trimarco and Ambassador Raise TIP with Tucuman Governor

17. (U) After the foundation's launch, Trimarco accompanied the Ambassador on a courtesy call to Tucuman Governor Jose Alperovich. The Ambassador noted USG commitment to supporting Trimarco and her

BUENOS AIR 00002095 002 OF 002

foundation. Trimarco thanked Alperovich for the financial support his administration provided to the Foundation, and asked him to "forgive her" when she asks him for more. She praised the governor's efforts to create a special police unit dedicated to investigating crimes against sexual integrity, including TIP crimes, calling the unit "exemplary". Alperovich congratulated Trimarco on the inauguration of her new foundation and offered to continue supporting her efforts to combat human trafficking.

What Accounts for Trimarco's Success

18. (U) Trimarco has relied heavily on the media, at the national and provincial levels, to highlight the problem of human trafficking in Argentina, in general, and her search for her missing daughter, in particular. The opening of the foundation is widely seen as a landmark in her work. Trimarco is an extraordinary networker, organizing a group of mothers throughout the country whose children have disappeared. They often accompany her at meetings with provincial government officials to demand greater action in resolving these cases. As reported reftel, Trimarco's initial modus operandi included her investigating bars and brothels disguised as a prostitute in search of information that could lead to the rescue of her daughter, Marita. In her search, she came across trafficking victims and worked with the Argentine National Gendarmerie to organize rescue missions.

19. (U) Now, due to her high public profile, people call Trimarco directly to provide her information on new disappearances. Trimarco passes this information on to the Argentina National Gendarmerie, and if it is a case that took place in Tucuman, to the Special Unit in charge of investigating sex crimes and TIP. The Gendarmerie then looks into the case, and if the lead can be verified, they organize a rescue mission. The Maria de los Angeles Foundation website, www.casoveron.org.ar, also has a link so that people can report information about the whereabouts of Trimarco's missing daughter, Marita, or other cases. Once rescued, Trimarco works with the Catholic religious order "Hermanas Adoratrices" to provide housing to victims. It is Trimarco's hope that the foundation will help to

institutionalize these ad hoc efforts to rescue and rehabilitate trafficking victims.

COMMENT

¶10. (U) Department recognition of Trimarco's efforts have helped raise her profile and call attention to Argentina's human trafficking problem. The establishment of the Maria de los Angeles Foundation is the first step to institutionalizing Trimarco's crusade against human trafficking and will reenergize civil society's efforts to pass meaningful legislation to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders.

WAYNE